



#16

FISHING APPARATUS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention is intended to provide a new and improved apparatus for construction for fishing, more particularly for mounting and holding a rod during the waiting portion of the fishing process. It also serves to permit one fisherman to engage in multiple rod fishing and to alert the fisherman in the event of a bite on any of the lines.

10 In the past there have been a number of fishing rod holders available that maintain the rod in an operative position and snap the rod upwardly upon a bite at the bait. These devices have found particular application for ice fishing and in smaller commercial applications so one fisherman could simultaneously
15 utilize a plurality of rods. While these prior art devices operated as intended, they were not without a number of problems and disadvantages. For example, many of them utilized a mousetrap type spring and latch arrangement requiring a very large spring and moving it into an operative position was quite difficult and
20 required considerable strength. In addition, if the spring was unlatched by accident it could cause significant injury.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

25 It is the general aim of the present invention to provide a new and improved spring powered fishing rod holder that is safe, compact, economical to construct and provide an ease use that has not heretofore been obtained.

30 It is another object of the invention to provide a fishing rod holder and bite actuator that can be readily mounted under all circumstances including boat railings, dock railings and beach and sand surfaces.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

Additional objects and advantages of the invention will appear from the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which:

5 FIG.1 is a perspective view of an exemplary rod holder embodying the features of the present invention; and

 FIG.2 is a perspective exploded view showing the invention in an unassembled configuration.

10 While the present invention is susceptible of various additional modifications and alternative constructions, illustrative embodiments are shown in the drawings and will herein be described in detail. It should be understood however, that it is not to be intended to limit the invention to the particular forms disclosed, but, on the contrary, the invention
15 is intended to cover all modifications, equivalents, and alternative construction falling within the spirit and scope of the invention as expressed in the appended claims.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

20 Referring collectively to FIG. 1 and FIG 2., an exemplary graphic construction generally indicated at 10 is illustrated which includes a cylindrical housing 11 to which a conventional fishing rod can be mounted and which can also be mounted to a deck, railing or placed in sand or be driven into ice. In order
25 to mount the housing 11 to a desired fixed support, a mounting bracket 12 is affixed to housing 11 which receives a removable post 13 which can be driven into sand or ice or clamped to a boat or pier railing before being inserted into the mounting bracket 12 and affixed by means of a retaining screw 14.

30 In keeping with the objects of the invention, the apparatus 10 has to be provided with means to respond to a fish biting the bait on the hook at the end of the line and quickly moving the

rod upward to secure the hook in a manner similar to a quick upward movement of the wrist of a fisherman holding a rod. This is accomplished by providing a spring loaded latchable holder for a rod.

5 As shown in figure 2, housing 11 is provided with covers 15 and 16 which are each provided with center holes 17 to rotatably receive shaft 18. Inside the housing 11 a coiled spring 19 is provided having a tab 21 at one end which is received by a slot 22 in shaft 18 and a tab 23 at the other end which is received by
10 a slot 24 provided in the side wall of the housing 11.

 In order to latch the shaft 18 in a position where the spring 19 is in a tightly coiled condition, a ratchet 26 is affixed to the end of shaft 18 passing through cover 16 which can be engaged by a moveable pawl 27 affixed to cover 16 by screw 28
15 which is stepped to allow the pawl to freely rotate.

 At the other end of shaft 18, a rod holder 30 is securely mounted. By contouring the holder in with a curved rod receiving channel 31, most conventional fishing rods can be received therein and secured thereto by any number of conventional means
20 such as velcro straps.

 In operation the apparatus would be mounted whereby the rod is at about a 45 degree angle with the horizontal. The rod is then rotated to a horizontal position which tightens the spring 19 and the rod remains in the horizontal position by virtue of
25 the pawl engaging the ratchet. To ensure this movement and provide stop means, cover 15 is provided with a forty five degree depression 33 which is engaged by a screw 34 affixed to shaft 18.

 When a fish bites the bait on the hook and provides tension
30 to the line, the rod is rotated enough to cause the pawl 27 to release the spring loaded shaft 18 quickly moving the rod forty five degrees which seats the hook in the fish and signals the fisherman that a bite has occurred.